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GENERAL CONSIDERATION ON JAPANESE APPENDICULARIAN FAUNA

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GENERAL CONSIDERATION ON JAPANESE APPENDICULARIAN FAUNA¹⁾

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With 6 Text-figures

I. Species Occurring in Japanese Waters and the Neighbouring Seas.

So far as I am aware, the following 34 species of appendicularians are found in reports dealing with this animal group occurring in Japanese waters and the neighbouring seas.

Oikopleuridae

Oikopleura (*Coecaria*) *longicauda* VOGT (A, T₁, T₂, T₃)

Oikopleura (*Coecaria*) *fusiformis* FOL (A, T₁, T₂, T₃)

Oikopleura (*Coecaria*) *intermedia* LOHMANN (= *Oik. microstoma* AIDA)
(A, T₁, T₂)

**Oikopleura* (*Coecaria*) *cornutogastra* AIDA (A, T₂, T₃)

Oikopleura (*Coecaria*) *graciloides* LOHMANN & BÜCKMANN (T₂)

Oikopleura (*Coecaria*) *gracilis* LOHMANN (T₃)

Oikopleura (*Vexillaria*) *dioica* FOL (A, T₁, T₂, T₃)

Oikopleura (*Vexillaria*) *rufescens* FOL (A, T₁, T₂, T₃)

Oikopleura (*Vexillaria*) *parva* LOHMANN (T₃)

Oikopleura (*Vexillaria*) *cophocerca* GEGENBAUR (T₁, T₂, T₃)

Oikopleura (*Vexillaria*) *albicans* (LEUCKART) (T₁)

Oikopleura (*Vexillaria*) *labradoriensis* LOHMANN (T₁, T₃)

**Oikopleura* (*Vexillaria*) *chamissonis* MERTENS (MERTENS 1831)

Megalocercus huxleyi (RITTER) (= *Oik. megastoma* AIDA) (A, T₁, T₂, T₃)

Stegosoma magnum (LANGERHANS) (A, T₁, T₂, T₃)

**Chunopleura microgaster* LOHMANN (T₁)

Pelagopleura verticalis (LOHMANN) (T₂)

**Pelagopleura* sp. (T₁, T₃)

Fritillariidae

Fritillaria (*Acrocercus*) *haplostoma* FOL (A, T₁, T₂, T₃)

1) Contributions from the Seto Marine Biological Laboratory, No. 258.

- Fritillaria* (*Acrocercus*) *abjornseni* LOHMANN (T₂)
Fritillaria (*Acrocercus*) *magna* LOHMANN (T₂, T₃)
Fritillaria (*Acrocercus*) *formica* FOL forma *digitata* LOHMANN (T₁, T₂, T₃)
Fritillaria (*Acrocercus*) *fraudax* LOHMANN (T₁)
Fritillaria (*Acrocercus*) *gracilis* LOHMANN (T₂)
Fritillaria (*Acrocercus*) *charybdae* LOHMANN (T₃)
Fritillaria (*Eurycercus*) *pellucida* (BUSCH) (A, T₁, T₂, T₃)
Fritillaria (*Eurycercus*) *borealis* LOHMANN
 forma *typica* (LOHMANN) (T₁)
 forma *intermedia* (LOHMANN) (T₁, T₂, T₃)
 forma *sargassi* (LOHMANN) (= *Frit. ritteri* AIDA) (A, T₁, T₂, T₃)
Fritillaria (*Eurycercus*) *megachile* FOL (T₁, T₂)
Fritillaria (*Eurycercus*) *tenella* LOHMANN (T₁, T₂, T₃)
Fritillaria (*Eurycercus*) *venusta* LOHMANN (T₁, T₂, T₃)
 **Fritillaria* (*Eurycercus*) *bicornis* LOHMANN (T₂)
Tectillaria fertilis (LOHMANN) (T₁, T₂)
Appendicularia sricula FOL (T₁, T₂, T₃)
Kowalevskia tenuis FOL (A, T₁, T₂)

Among these species, *Oik. chamissonis* is considered as being identical with *Oik. labradoriensis*; *Oik. cornutogastra* seems to be adequately treated as a form of *Oik. fusiformis* (TOKIOKA 1951); *Fritillaria bicornis* is undoubtedly a synonym of *Frit. venusta* as fully discussed in my previous paper (1951). *Pelagopleura* sp. (T₃) is probably an imperfectly preserved specimen of *Pel. verticalis*. *Chunopleura microgaster* reported in my paper of 1940 seems to be a decrepit individual of *Stegosoma magnum*, which has discharged all genital products out of the body. I have found, since 1940, several individuals of *St. magnum* in such state as figured and described in my previous paper of 1940 under the name of *Chunopleura microgaster*. Thus, the valid species from Japanese waters and the adjacent seas are reduced to 29 species and 3 forms.

Oik. graciloides, *Pelag. verticalis*, *Frit. abjornseni* and *Frit. gracilis* are only listed in the report given by TOKIOKA (1942), but there is no description nor figure of these species in any paper dealing with appendicularians in the north-western Pacific. So, I wish to give brief descriptions and sketched figures of specimens of these species found in the material under my disposal in the last section of this article, to certificate the occurrence of these animals in the neighbouring waters of Japan.

II. The Faunistic Consideration on Japanese Appendicularians.

Horizontal distribution: Japanese appendicularians may be classified conveniently as follows, as mentioned roughly in my previous paper of 1940.

1) Oceanic water form

- a. Cold-water forms—*Oik. labradoriensis* in Oyasio (Tisima Current), Liman Current, cold waters along the coasts of Hokkaidō (Osyoro) and recently from the deep waters of Japan Sea under the warm Tusima Current.
Frit. borealis forma *typica* found in the northern waters of the Sea of Japan.
- b. Warm-water forms—Most of the species in the list, excepting those included in groups a and 2. Among warm-water forms, *Oik. longicauda* is the commonest species and is followed by *Oik. fusiformis* and *Oik. rufescens* in Oikopleuridae and *Frit. haplostoma* is the commonest one and next *Frit. pellucida* being followed by *Frit. formica* and *Frit. borealis* f. *sargassi* and *intermedia* in Fritillariidae. AIDA (1907) says that *Kowalevskia tenuis* is also a common visitor to the Pacific coast of Japan and is found during the summer in the swarm of *Noctiluca*, although the present species seems to be rather a rare one in my own experience.

2) Inlet-water form

Oik. dioica is found commonly and abundantly in every bay or inlet along the coasts of Japan and the adjacent regions, which holds stagnant water. This species is also found, though sparsely, in the offshore water as a drift-form from the inlet waters. In such cases, the animal seems to grow much larger than in the inlet waters. *Oik. longicauda* and *Frit. haplostoma* are frequently found in a considerable number in some bays or inlets, although it is certain that they are drifted into there from the open sea. (As to the latter species see the item of *Frit. abjornseni*.) The distribution of *Appendicularia sicula* is not certain. It is, however, a noteworthy fact that *App. sicula* is met with, in my experience, much oftener in samples from bays or inlet waters in the temperate or tropical regions than in those from the open sea.

Vertical distribution: There are merely a few data about the vertical distribution of this animal group in Japanese waters. According to my previous paper in 1951, appendicularians seem to be scarce both in the superficial layer and in the depths. I found only 3 *Oikopleura* and 1 *Fritillaria* in two samples hauled below 150 m. Of these 4 specimens, one is *Oik. longicauda* and other one is *Oik. rufescens*, while the rest can not be identified clearly, because they are in a wrong state of preservation. FURUHASHI (1952) gives the following data that *Oikopleura* sp. occupied 1.4–11.1% of the whole zooplankton hauled between 140 m–400 m at two stations off San'in District.

Occurrence in swarm: AIDA (1907) reports that *Oik. rufescens* occurred once in the summer of 1897 in an exceptionally great swarm invaded the harbour of Misaki after a strong southern wind, thickly becoming the surface water all over with cast-off "houses". I met with, once on January 31, 1949, to my own experience, a coloured stream, ca. 50 m long × 1–2 m wide, formed by fully mature individuals of *Oik. longicauda*, which appeared in Tanabe Bay not so far from the northern shore of our Laboratory. *Frit. haplostoma* occurs sometimes in a dense swarm in the superficial water near the southern shore of the Laboratory on some extremely calm days accompanied with a breeze from the south. This phenomenon seems to be produced by the same mechanism as what causes the red water of *Noctiluca* along our coasts. Namely many individuals of *Frit. haplostoma* floating in the superficial water as *Noctiluca* are blown together by a breeze to an enormously dense swarm at some places under special topographic conditions.

III. Some Taxonomic Notes.

1. *Oikopleura graciloides* LOHMANN & BÜCKMANN, 1924

(Fig. 1)

BÜCKMANN, AD. (1923 a): Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Appendicularien. Auszug aus der Doktorarbeit, 10 s., 1 Abb.

BÜCKMANN, AD. (1924): Bemerkungen über Appendicularien aus der Ausbeute der Deutschen Südpolar-Expedition. Zool. Anz., Bd. 59.

Oikopleura californica—ESSENBERG, CH. (1926): Copelata from the San Diego Region. Univ. California, Publ. Zool., Vol. 28, No. 22.

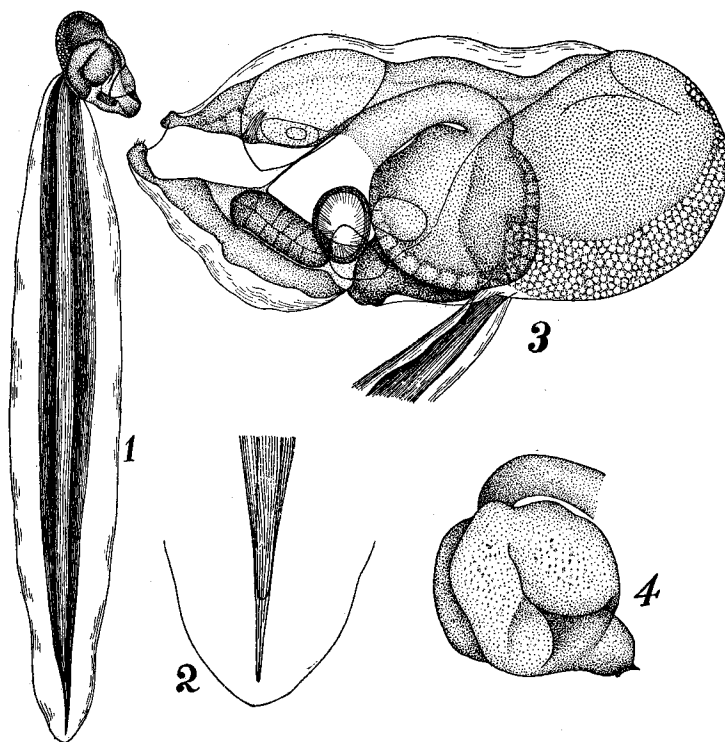


Fig. 1. *Oikopleura graciloides* LOHMANN & BÜCKMANN.

1...Entire animal; 2...Tip of tail, \times ca. 45; 3...Trunk, left side, $\times 200$;
4...Alimentary canal, right side, $\times 200$.

Trunk: Small species. Trunk elongate ovoid, $310-430\mu$ in length in mature state. Oral gland absent. Endostyle is short and situated much nearer the anus than the mouth. The left lobe of the stomach nearly round in outline, the oesophagus opens near the dorsal end of the stomach. Intestine short, anus situated nearly at the level of the anterior end of the mass of the alimentary canal. Gonad extends dorso-posteriorly. The antero-ventral parts of the gonad cover on each side a $1/3$ or $1/2$

of the mass of the alimentary organs. Ovary median.

Tail: Very long, ca. 5.5 times the length of the trunk. Tail musculature rather slender, ca. 3 times the breadth of the chorda which falls in a considerable distance from the posterior end of the musculature. Subchordal cell absent.

Locality: North and South Atlantic, the Mediterranean Sea near Messina (LOHMANN 1896, 0–150 m); Bismark Archipelago (FRIEDRICH DAHL 1896–97). Sparsely in the neighbouring waters of the Palao Islands (TOKIOKA 1942).

2. *Pelagopleura verticalis* (LOHMANN), 1914

(Fig. 2)

Althoffia verticalis—LOHMANN, H. (1914): Die Appendicularien der Valdivia-Expedition. Verhandlungen d. Deutschen Zoologischen Gesellschaft, pp. 157–192.

Pelagopleura verticalis—LOHMANN und BÜCKMANN (1926): Die Appendicularien der Deutschen Südpolar-Expedition. Deutsch. Südpolar-Exped., Bd. 18, Zool. Bd. 10.

Trunk: Rather elongate, ca. 2.2 mm in length and ca. 1 mm in width in the most perfectly preserved specimen. Endostyle is short and situated much nearer the oral aperture than the anus. Oral gland absent. Spiracles not longer than the endostyle. The alimentary canal is situated on the sagittal plane of the trunk. Stomach roughly roundish in outline, oesophagus enters the stomach at the mid-dorsal point and the intestine is issued from the antero-dorsal corner of the stomach. Ovary and testis are both paired. Testis covers the lateral side of the posterior half of the trunk, the anterior end of this organ reaches the posterior margin of the oikoplast epithelium, far beyond the stomach. Ovaries are much smaller than testes and each is situated between the testis and the alimentary canal. It is roughly a triangular plate located vertically. The posterior half extends beyond the posterior margin of the stomach and tapers to a blunt apex, while the anterior half covers the postero-ventral part of the stomach and bends outward along the anterior margin. A complex lobation occurs on the ovary in maturity and makes the shape of the latter much more complex than the general appearance described above.

Tail: Tail reaches nearly 3 times the trunk length. Tail musculature narrow, ca. two times the width of the chorda which falls far apart from the posterior end of the musculature. There are ca. 10 groups of tail-cells, each of which is rather vacuolate.

Locality: Former records are from Bengal Bay (Tiefsee-Expedition), Guinea Current (Südpolar-Expedition) and Bismark-Archipelago (FRIEDRICH DAHL 1896–97). A few specimens were found in plankton samples hauled in the neighbouring waters of the Palao Islands (TOKIOKA, 1942).

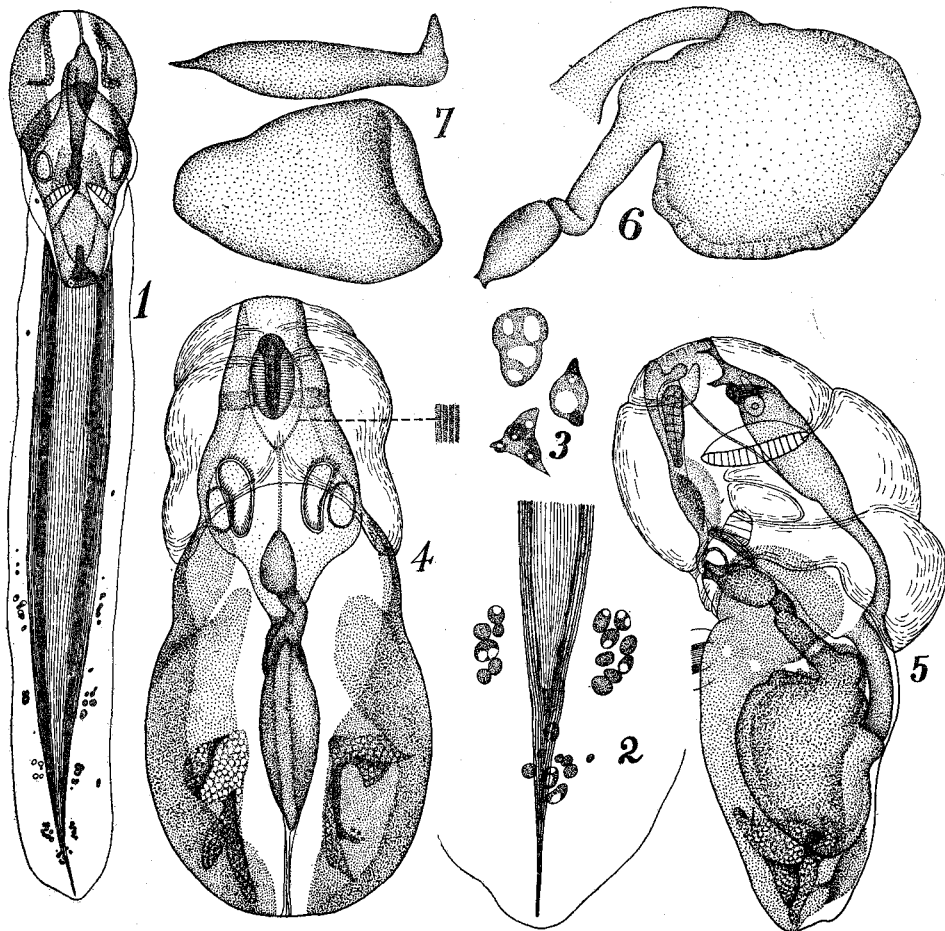


Fig. 2. *Pelagopleura verticalis* (LOHMANN).

1...Entire animal; 2...Posterior end of tail; 3...A part of a group of tail-cells, $\times 200$; 4...Trunk, ventral side, $\times 40$; 5...Trunk, left side, $\times 40$; 6...Alimentary canal, left side, $\times 55$; 7...Ovary, above...from ventral side. below...from outside.

3. *Fritillaria abjornseni* LOHMANN, 1909

(Figs. 3 and 4)

LOHMANN, H. (1909): Die Fauna Südwest-Australiens. Bd. II, Lief. 10. Copelata und Thaliacea. pp. 143-149.

LOHMANN, H. und BÜCKMANN, AD. (1926): Die Appendicularien der Deutschen Südpolar-Expedition. Deutsch. Südpolar-Exped., Bd. 18, Zool. Bd. 10.

Fritillaria lohmanni—ESSENBERG, CH. (1926): Copelata from the San Diego Region. Univ. California, Publ. Zool., Vol. 28, No. 22.

Trunk: Small species. Trunk $440-740\mu$ in length, 620μ on average. The fundamental structure of the alimentary and genital organs is quite the same as that of

Frit. haplostoma. The noticeable characteristics of the present species may be found only in the large and round spiracles, large ciliated groove and oikoplast epithelium extending so far back that the distance between the anterior end of the stomach and the posterior margin of the oikoplast epithelium is much smaller than the length of the epithelium itself. Ovary+testis = ca. $1/3$ of the trunk length. A gland cell is situated at the postero-lateral corner of each spiracle.

Tail: About 1200μ in length. The structure is nearly the same as in *Frit. haplostoma*, although the chorda extends beyond the posterior end of the musculature only slightly and tail-cells are not found on the fin excepting a pair of small ones

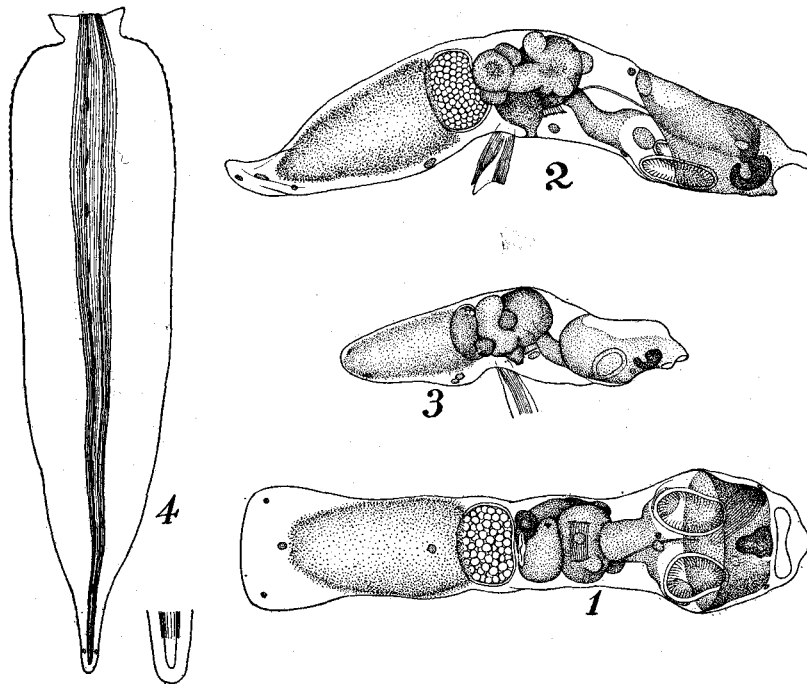


Fig. 3. *Fritillaria abjornseni* LOHMANN.

1...Trunk, ventral side, $\times 110$; 2...Trunk, right side, $\times 110$; 3...Trunk of the smallest individual, right side, $\times 110$; 4...Tail. $\times 70$

near the posterior end. The musculature is narrow, ca. 3 times the width of the chorda at the broadest portion.

Locality: A few specimens of the present species are formerly collected at the estuary of Swan River in the South West Australia and in the Antarctic with the water-temperature 1.8°C during the "Südpolar-Expedition". ESSENBERG (1926) records 2 specimens from the harbour of San Diego. From these localities, this species has been considered to be euryhaline and eurythermal. I found a few specimens in plankton samples hauled in the lagoon of the Palao Islands and in the neighbouring waters.

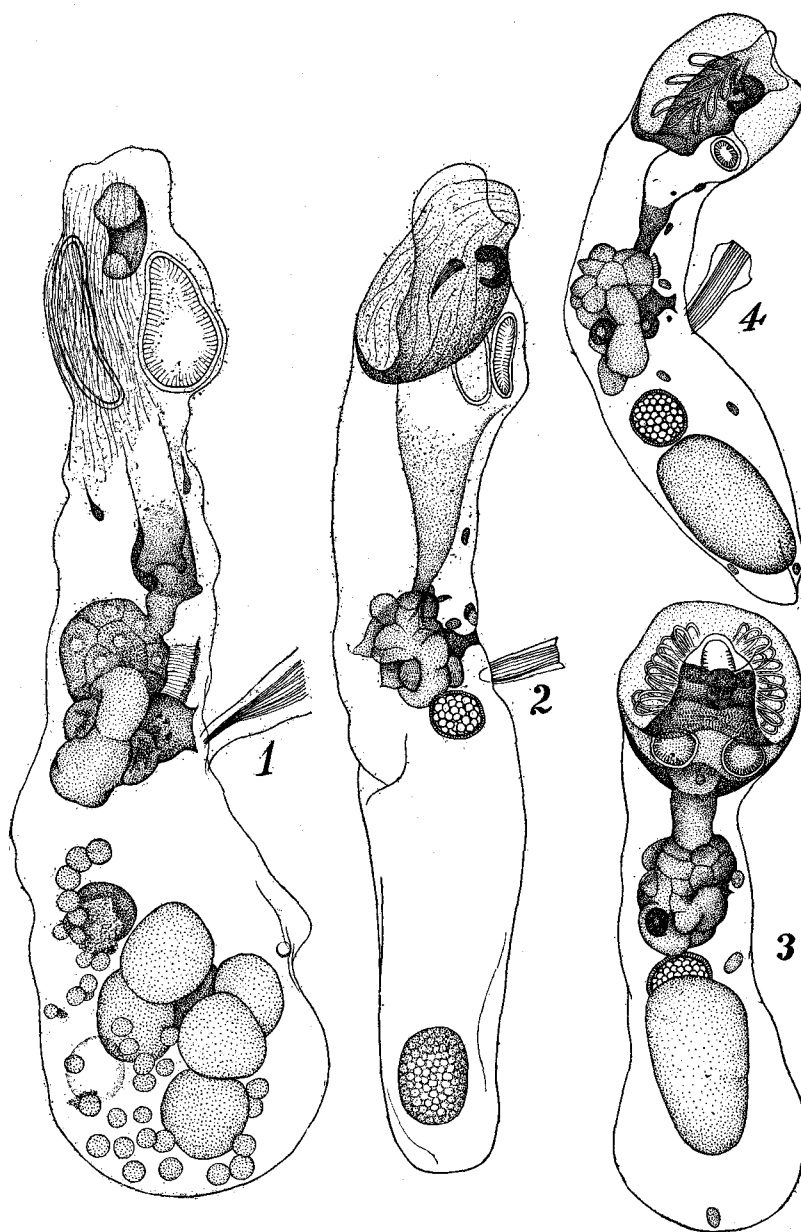


Fig. 4. *Fritillaria haplostoma* FOL.

1...Trunk of a large individual, right side; 2...Trunk of another large individual, right side; 3...Trunk of a small individual, ventral side; 4...The same, right side. all $\times 110$.

Remarks: The Palao specimens are much larger than the original one which is only 250μ in the trunk length (San Diego specimens are 370μ). There is found, however, no difference in structures between the original Australian specimen and the Palao specimens which are shown in Fig. 3. It is a well known fact that *Frit. haplostoma* varies much in size as I have already mentioned in my previous paper (1951). I give in Fig. 4 figures of three individuals of *Frit. haplostoma* as the material about this problem. Figs. 1-2 in that figure show larger individuals from the oceanic waters and 3-4 in the figure indicate a small individual from the lagoon waters of the Palao Islands. The larger ones reach 1.4 mm in length of the trunk and bear large elongate spiracles. Smaller specimens are $\pm 730\mu$ in length of the trunk and have small round spiracles. These smaller individuals seem to occur oftener in the inlet waters than in the oceanic waters and resemble closely *Frit. abjornseni* mentioned above. The differences between these smaller *Frit. haplostoma* and *Frit. abjornseni* are as follows: 1)—Spiracles and ciliated groove are larger in *Frit. abjornseni*, 2)—The distance between the anterior end of the stomach and the posterior margin of the oikoplast epithelium is larger in *Frit. haplostoma*.

It is, however, not impossible that the differences, mentioned above, do not deserve to be considered as those of specific importance. If this supposition is allowed, *Frit. abjornseni* must be treated as an enormously small form of *Frit. haplostoma*, which is euryhaline and eurythermal and lives mainly in the coastal or inlet waters.

4. *Fritillaria gracilis* LOHMANN, 1896

(Figs. 5 and 6)

LOHMANN, H. (1897): Die Appendicularien der Plankton-Expedition, Ergebn. Plankton-Exped., Bd. II, Ec.

Trunk: Trunk is oval in outline, slightly compressed dorso-ventrally. It is ca. 1 mm in length and ca. 720μ in breadth in fully mature state. Spiracles are comparatively small and round ~ slightly elongate in shape. Intestine is provided with two conspicuous glandular appendages, besides a few irregular glandular prominences. Stomach is usually quite devoid of glandular appendage, although some individuals, for instance a 660μ long individual (Fig. 6-1), have a few gland cells attached to the stomach. These glandular appendages of the stomach are, however, not so large as the stomach. Testis is a U-shaped ribbon and occupies the posterior portion of the trunk. Ovaries occupy the anterior ends of the testis. Fig. 5 shows an individual, in which mature ova are scattered in the body cavity from ovaries. Fig. 6-1 indicates an immature individual, in which the testis is interrupted medially. Such an arrangement of genital organs is considered to be common to immature individuals of *Frit. urticans* and *Frit. charybdae*. The existence of a glandular appendage on

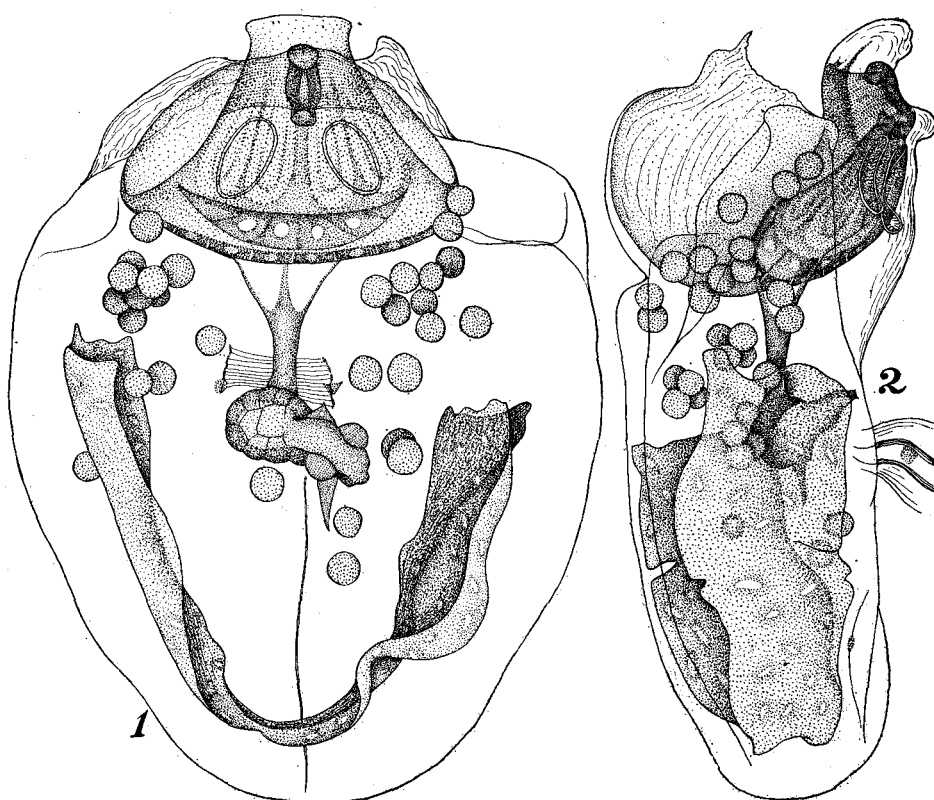


Fig. 5. *Fritillaria gracilis* LOHMANN.

1...Trunk, dorsal side, $\times 110$; 2...Trunk, right side. $\times 110$.

the stomach makes us very reasonably to consider the specimen as a young individual of *Frit. charybdae*. The glandular appendage is, however, much smaller than in *Frit. charybdae*. There are two distinct glandular appendages on the intestine. Spiracles small and round. The tail musculature scarcely exceeds the chorda in the width and reaches posteriorly to the posterior end of the chorda. On account of these features I prefer to treat the specimen as a young of *Frit. gracilis*, which has exceptionally a medially interrupted testis.

Tail: Ca. $1,500\mu$ in moderately sized individuals. As to the structure of the tail, see the preceding several lines. There are many tail-cells arranged lineally along both lateral margins of the fin.

Locality: Formerly known from the warm waters of the Atlantic and Bismark Archipelago. I got a considerable number of specimens from the stations near the Palao Islands in the North Equatorial Current.

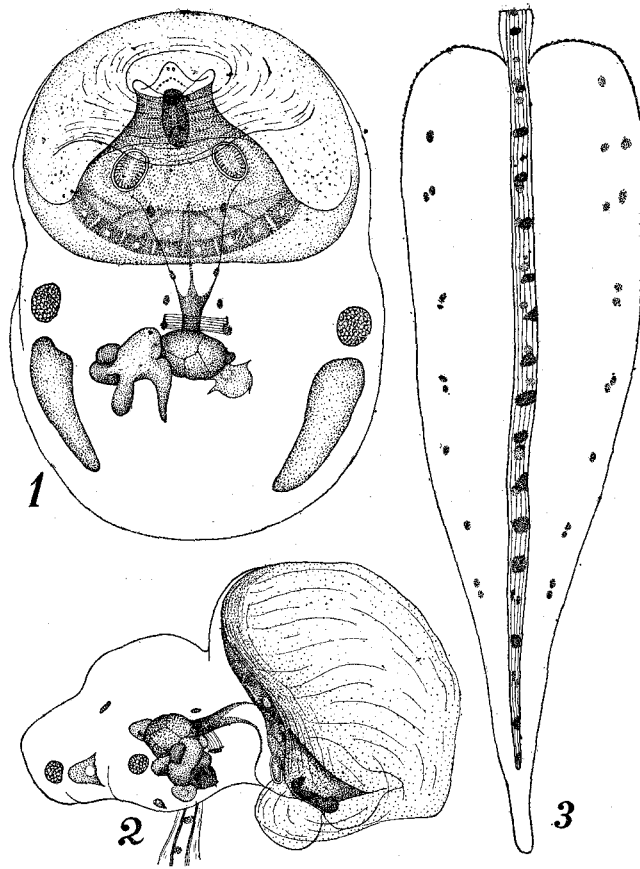


Fig. 6. *Fritillaria gracilis* LOHMANN.

1...A 660 μ long trunk, ventral side, $\times 110$; 2...A small 530 μ long trunk, right side, $\times 110$; 3...Tail, $\times 70$.

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